

CORRESPONDENCE.

Permits to Collect Birds for Scientific Purposes in Canada.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

Considerable confusion and delay has arisen because ornithologists wishing to collect birds or their nests or eggs in the Dominion of Canada have not been familiar with the law.

Application for permission to take migratory insectivorous, migratory game, or migratory non-game birds, as defined in the Migratory Birds Convention, in Canada, should be made to J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of Dominion Parks, Department of the Interior, Ottawa. As other kinds of permits are issued by this department, be sure to state explicitly that you wish to collect the migratory birds protected by federal law. Permits will be issued as promptly as possible, but the collector should allow two or three weeks' time in case unforeseen difficulties arise.

Applications from recognized museums or scientific societies do not require to be supported by testimonials. The director of the museum should make application for each person who is collecting for the museum. If there is doubt as to the museum being well-known, it is suggested that written testimonials be furnished as required for individuals.

Individual collector's applications must be supported by written testimonials from two well-known ornithologists. Mere endorsement of the application will not suffice. The testimonial should refer fully to the ornithological work of the applicant and state the writer's opinion as to the value of that work.

Applicants should state the locality, if possible, certainly the Province in which they intend to collect.

Permits issued by this branch allow the holder to take birds protected by the Migratory Birds Treaty. Many other species are protected by Provincial laws, and permission to take them should be sought from the Provincial authorities.

The provincial officers concerned are:

	<i>Position</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Province</i>
Secretary, Game Conservation Board		Victoria	British Columbia
Chief Game Guardian		Edmonton	Alberta
Chief Game Guardian		Regina	Saskatchewan
Chief Game Guardian		Winnipeg	Manitoba
Deputy Minister of Game & Fisheries		Toronto	Ontario
Deputy Minister, Department of			

<i>Position</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Province</i>
Colonization, Mines and Fisheries	Quebec	Quebec
Deputy Minister of Lands and Mines	Fredericton	New Brunswick
Chief Game Commissioner	Halifax	Nova Scotia
	Charlottetown	Prince Edward Island

Any shipment whatever, by mail, express, or freight, of migratory bird specimens must be labelled with the number of the permit, the name and address of the shipper, and an accurate statement of the contents, in order to comply with the law.

So that all permit holders will have a proper concept of the principles governing the issue of scientific permits, these principles are printed in full with each permit. This portion of the permit was written by Mr. P. A. Taverner and Dr. R. M. Anderson, of the Museum of the Geological Survey of Canada.

As it is of general interest to ornithologists, it is quoted in conclusion.

Permit Principles.

Permits to take migratory birds, their nests and eggs, under the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations are granted for the sole purpose of scientific study and not for the collection of objects of curiosity or personal or household adornment. Therefore, only such persons as take a serious interest in ornithology, and are competent to exercise the privilege for the advancement of knowledge, are eligible to receive such permits.

It is expected that the holders of permits will use them with reasonable discretion, taking only such specimens as their scientific needs require and avoiding unnecessary waste of life. The habitual taking of numbers of individuals for the purpose of obtaining a few specially desirable ones is deprecated, and it is urged that the collector take no more specimens than he has reasonable prospects of caring for, and will conscientiously endeavor to properly prepare each and all when taken.

It is also recommended that the holders of permits will, so far as is consistent with their object, be considerate of the local feeling in the neighbourhood where they collect and will demonstrate both by actions and speech that the scientific collector is sympathetic towards the principles of wild life conservation and not the rival of legitimate sportsmen.

It is required as an evidence of good faith that holders of permits label their specimens with the customary scientific data and properly care for them, not only at the time of collection but thereafter, giving them all reasonable protection against insect pests and other agencies of destruction, and will not permit them to be destroyed through carelessness or indifference.

As permits are granted for the purpose of general scientific advancement and not for individuals' benefit, specimens taken under them are to be

regarded as being in the nature of public trusts, and should be accessible to all duly qualified students, under only such reasonable restrictions as are necessary for their protection or as is consistent with the owner's work.

Finally, it is urged that provision be made so that specimens taken will ultimately find their way into permanent or public collections where they will be available for study by future generations and not be wasted and lost through neglect.

While all these conditions are not strictly mandatory, and their spirit will be liberally interpreted, they will be considered in the granting or renewal of each permit, and evidence of gross violation of them may be deemed sufficient ground for the refusal of an application or for the revocation of any permit already granted.

It is hoped and expected that the justice of these principles will be realized and that collectors will co-operate in advancing science to the utmost without unnecessary waste of valuable bird life.

HOYES LLOYD.

Ornithologist, Dominion Parks Branch. Dept. of the Interior.
Ottawa, June 30, 1919.

**Capt. Thomas Brown's 'Illustrations of the American Ornithology
of Wilson and Bonaparte.'**

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

In 'The Auk' for April, 1903, pp. 236-241, I gave an account of Capt. Thomas Brown's Edinburgh reproductions of the plates of Wilson and Bonaparte's 'American Ornithology.' I showed that Brown's scheme involved three independent reproductions of the American plates, one on copper in folio, one on copper in royal octavo, and one on stone in 16 mo. The three books that resulted from Brown's endeavor are among the rarest in ornithological literature and therefore of great interest to bibliographers.

In 1903 I was able to place only three copies (one imperfect) of the folio edition and one of the 16 mo. edition, the latter consisting of nineteen plates bound in a copy of Jameson's 1831 edition of Wilson and Bonaparte in your own library, Mr. Editor. Many years ago Professor Alfred Newton supplied Dr. Coues with a description of Part I of this miniature edition, and its title-page is quoted in Coues's Bibliography, 'Birds of the Colorado Valley,' p. 600; but when I saw Professor Newton in June, 1902, he had lost all recollection of it and we together searched his library for it in vain.

Of the existence of the royal-octavo edition I was unable to find a trace. I surmised, however, from the way the plates of Jardine's 1832 Wilson and Bonaparte were unmercifully trimmed to match the size of the text, that this edition was soon appropriated by Jardine to illustrate his own work.